Transfer of cattle-pounds to panchayats.

* 287 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any, and, if so, what panchayats have applied for the transfer to them of the cattle-pounds in their respective areas and the orders passed on such applications?

A.—The Panchayat Boards of Sembiam (Chingleput district), Nidamangalam (Tanjore district), Kovvur (West Godavari district) and Madhavaram (West Godavari district) applied to Government for the transfer of control of cattle-pounds in their respective areas. A copy [a] of G.O. No. 1169, L. & M., dated 9th April 1931, is placed on the table.

Agriculture

Proposals for the establishment of a sugarcane farm in Bellary district.

* 288 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether proposals have been called for establishing a sugarcane farm or research station in the western taluks of the Bellary district; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now is?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No such proposals have been called for.

Facilities for fruit cultivation.

* 289 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the Mysore Government are actively supporting fruit cultivation in their State by granting loans free of interest, exempting the lands from assessment for eight years from the date of grant of loan and otherwise liberalizing the rules for the grant of Government loans; and

(*b*) whether the Government of Madras have under consideration the issue of orders on the same or similar lines here?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) No such question is under the consideration of the Government.

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" Has the Government at present any officer who is an expert in fruit cultivation? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" No, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" In view of the fact that there are vast areas under fruit cultivation some of which are going to waste, has the Government considered the necessity of appointing such an officer? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—" No, Sir, the Government have not considered the question."

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[a] Printed as Appendix XIII on pages 159-160 infra.